

I want you to know that the resources of the Governor's Office will always be at your disposal.

Our State stands now at a point where it must take counsel of courage rather than fear in plotting its advance.

We know we cannot chart the future with certainty. In business, and in government—which is the biggest business of all—it is necessary to plan two, four and more years ahead. Budgets and all great public service programs must be projected in order that what we do today will dovetail into what we do tomorrow.

Without claiming to be a prophet, I say here and now that I face the future with confidence. We are now in a period of readjustment. I see it as the levelling off process expected since the end of the war—the normal change from a seller's to a buyer's market inevitable as production catches up with shortages. There is evidence that we have passed the peak of high prices, and in the months immediately ahead it would be surprising if the economic adjustment did not exact a toll in business casualty and individual unemployment. We would be foolish not to take this probability into consideration, but I think we would be equally foolish to magnify the consequences of what should prove to be a normal adjustment due after years of almost uninterrupted upward movement.

We have returned the government in Washington to control of the Democratic party, under which we enjoyed our greatest prosperity. President Truman and the Democratic Congress have a mandate from the People to safeguard our economy with proper supports and controls. I cannot see the possibility of depression such as we experienced under the last Republican administration. Our party has created safeguards. Bank depositors are insured against loss. Labor has more than trebled its average wage in this State and workers are insured against total loss of income in case of temporary unemployment. Farmers have support prices to insure them against selling below cost of production. Reserve funds have been accumulated to maintain subsistence payments to large numbers of the aged and needy through the Social Security Program. Out of substantial profits in the last eight years, business, by and large, has been able to set aside reserves against temporary reverses.

I repeat. I face the future with confidence. I face it, too, with the conviction that now is the time to build for a greater future by bringing our public services current with the needs of the times. In doing this we can set the stage for the greatest era of prosperity ever experienced by our people.

During the war and post-war years, when neither labor nor materials were available, I think our State leadership wisely husbanded tax resources. Our State is in sound fiscal position. But we cannot overlook the vital factor: In amassing a hoard of tax dollars we accumulated a vast backlog of urgent public service needs. We must conclude that we do not have a real surplus, but actually a deficit in public services. To go forward, we must wipe out this deficit.